

REMARKS

By the above amendments, claim 5 is canceled and claims 6, 8-12 are rewritten into independent form. Currently, claims 6-14 are before the Examiner for consideration on their merits.

In the Office Action, the only issue that was pending was the rejection of claim 5. In light of the rejection of claim 5 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-13, claim 5 has been canceled and its essence has been incorporated into claims 6 and 8-12. The only difference between claim 5 and the subject matter incorporated into dependent claims 6 and 8-12 is that the language regarding the activation of the pull element with respect to the first rod is defined in terms of moving with respect to the shaft rather than "moving in a slot" of the shaft. Applicant contends that this amendment is still supported by the original specification, and the slight broadening of this part of claim 5 does not change the conclusion that allowable subject matter was found in dependent claims 6 and 8-12. Since the identified allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 8-12 is found in each new independent claim, these claims are now in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 7, 13, and 14.

While this Amendment is presented after allowance, it follows the Examiner's suggestion and should therefore be entered.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine this application and pass claims 6-14 onto issuance.

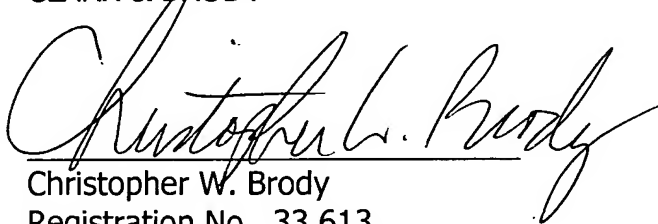
If the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in expediting the allowance of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 202-835-1753.

The above constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action dated September 19, 2006.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In light of the rewriting of the claims into independent form, six independent claims are not in the application. Accordingly, a check in the amount of \$300 is enclosed to cover the three additional independent claims. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK & BRODY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christopher W. Brody", written over a horizontal line.

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